

TODAY'S LEADER



Jane Hanson
United States
Women of Today
President 2024-2025



USWT MISSION STATEMENT

“Our mission is to provide opportunities in the areas of community service, leadership training, personal growth and work in partnership with multiple charities.”

Greetings USWT Friends,
Staff just completed our winter retreat last weekend. One staff person said...”We worked hard and we played hard!” We have many things planned for the remainder of 3rd trimester; please check out this newsletter for all the “**COLORFUL**” information. Our finish line is fast approaching; Let’s work together to celebrate many successes as we celebrate 40 years of US Women of Today.



Did you hear the news? We grew during the second trimester by 34 members; adding that to the growth from first trimester and we go into 3rd trimester at growth plus 37!! Wow!! But MVP Shellie is not done yet; she is challenging us to grow by 50 members this year. I think we can do this together. To help us with this goal, Minnesota completed a second extension at the end of February – Congrats!

Join the upcoming Monthly Conversation Zoom Meeting

- Each month will be a 30-40 minute conversation and begin at 6:30pm CST.
- March 10 – Membership discussion; bring you questions and needs to our last membership discussion for this year.
- April (date TBD) – succession training
- May 1 – discussion on Buckets of Sunshine, Annual Convention and the collection for Safe Haven

As we wrap up this Women of Today year and look forward to the next year, my staff and I are here to assist you in any way we can. Watch for the All Chapter Mailing that will be emailed to all chapters at the beginning of April.

Additional information and registration form for our annual convention is included in this newsletter and the tentative schedule will be out on the web site soon.

I have had the opportunity to visit the Iowa State meeting in January. It was great to meet all the members. Keep up the good work...you are all certainly “Making a Colorful Difference”.

-
In WT Friendship,
Jane Hanson



Dates:

March

- Mar. 1 - Dimensions of Wellness Intellectual Challenge Begins
- Mar. 5 – Monthly reports due to the National President
- Mar. 6 – Why Committee
- Mar. 10 – Monthly conversation: Membership Discussion (6:30pm CST)
- Mar. 20 – Purple Thursday
- Mar. 26 – Future Direction meeting (7:30pm CST)

April

- Apr. 1 – New Member Adds postmarked to the Membership VP
- Apr. 5 – Monthly reports due to the National President
- Apr. 6 – Staff Zoom Meeting (6:30pm CST)
- Apr. 13 – State President Zoom Meeting (6:30pm CST)
- Apr. 20 – 26 – National Volunteer Recognition Week
- Date TBD Monthly Conversation: Succession Training
- Apr. 17 – Purple Thursday
- Apr. 30 - Dimensions of Wellness Intellectual Challenge Ends
WPD Certification State Challenge Ends
WPD Certification submission ends



May

- May 1 – Monthly Conversation: Annual Convention Update, Buckets of Sunshine and Safe Haven Support
Third trimester Renewals & New Member adds postmarked to the Membership VP
All 3rd Trimester certifications, challenges & competitions due
- May 4 – Ways and Means Bingo Fundraiser
- May 5 – Monthly reports due to National President
- May 12 – Registration and room reservations due to Annual Convention
- May 24 – Golden Star Award Community Recognition due to National President
- May 30 - Speaking Competition submissions due



Staff Highlights: Click on the page number to jump to the page indicated

Chairman of the Board

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DVA Program Manager

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WPD Program Manager

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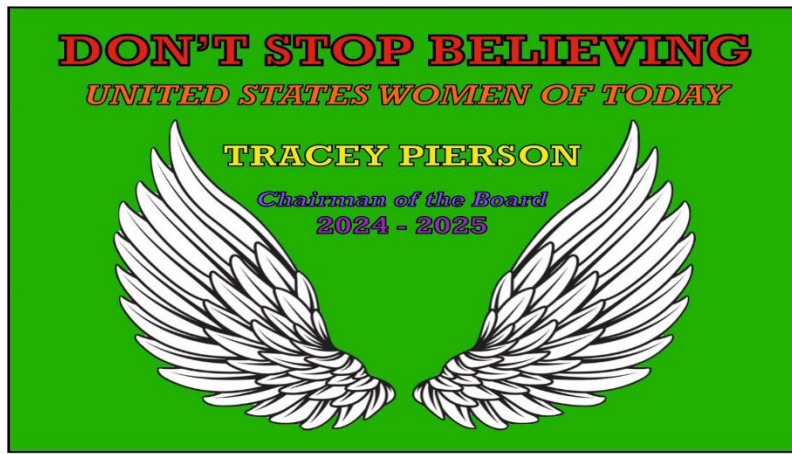
All American Chapter

This award is designed to provide national recognition for those Women of Today chapters who have planned and accomplished a well-rounded program of projects and activities that exemplify the US Women of Today creed.

Accomplishment of these activities will help the chapter provide the opportunities of leadership, training, community service, personal enrichment and fellowship for its members.

Take pride in your accomplishments and share the completion of this All-American Chapter program with your chapter members.

Upon completion of the criteria, the Chapter President signs and submits to the USWT President, postmarked no later than May 10. The All American Chapter Form can be found on the Member Resource/Awards tab and submitted by the on-line form or print the PDF form and send to the US Women of Today national president by May 10th and be recognized at Annual Convention.



I hope everyone is surviving this cold weather; Spencer, Iowa was so lucky compared to others with getting snow. The next Future Directions meeting will be March 26th @ 7:30pm CST. We have started to finish up the membership, PR and extensions manuals and s the Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian will be discussed at the Future Directions Meeting.

Have you thought about being an officer of the United States Women of Today? Have you seen someone at convention and said Hey I can do that position, it looks fun. Please reach out to me with any questions you might have cob@uswomenoftoday.org, we are starting to fill up the board Don't Wait!!

We are looking for someone to host the Annual Convention in June 2026, please reach out if you are interested or have questions.

Tracey Pierson
USWT COB 2024-2025

40th Anniversary t shirts www.companycasuals.com/WOTAnniversary is the link for t-shirts sales, end April 15th.



- Barb Fish "Cluster Chairman" 1985-1986
- Vicki Fisher "Sharing Our Dreams" 1986-1987
- Susan Schuler "So the People" 1987-1988
- Pat Branstad "Yesterday's Dream, Today's Success, Tomorrow's Vision" 1988-1989
- Pat (Zelaz) Blanker "The Heartbeat of America... Women of Today" 1989-1990
- Joy Hutchcraft "Sharing the Vision" 1990-1991
- Deb VanBlattre "Excitement in the Air" 1991-1992
- Mary Mainberg "Spirit of Excellence" 1992-1993
- Carmelita Monegald "United We Stand" 1993-1994
- Linda Gates "Gunk & Rising Star" 1994-1995
- Joey Hedstrom "An All Time High" 1995-1996
- Deb Peters "Planting Our Belief In the Future" 1996-1997
- Shella (Carroll) Conroy "Sharing the Light of Leadership and Service" 1997-1998
- Terry Pronko "Kissin' Across America" 1998-1999
- Barbara Wigzell "True Colors" 1999-2000
- Terri Sherman "Committed to Excellence" 2000-2001
- Amy Plummer "A Vision of Success" 2001-2002
- Michelle Thompson "Lead to Lead, Together We Can" 2002-2003
- Karen Irwin "Imagine the Possibilities" 2003-2004
- Karen Hahr "Amazing History - Incredible Future" 2004-2005
- Brenda S. Almerney "Blending Our Talents" 2005-2006
- Cynthia Kilbert "Backbone of Friendship" 2006-2007
- Kayla Hermann "Edison" 2007-2008
- Janet Espar "New Dreams - New Vision - New Stars" 2008-2009
- Sue "Miss" DiStoro "Sparkle We Make a Difference" 2009-2010
- Deborah Stein "New Directions" 2010-2011
- Pat Fern "Building Our Future" 2011-2012
- Maxine Turner "Back to the Stars" 2012-2013
- Cindy Unsicker "Sustaining Commitment" 2013-2014
- Judy Herrala "Soaring to New Opportunities" 2014-2015
- Joyce Hargrater "Lasting Connections" 2015-2016
- Barb Wigzell "Strong Women" 2016-2017
- Nicky Anderson "Imagine, Create, Inspire" 2017-2018
- Laura Gayford "Wings to Fly, Dreams to Be" 2018-2019
- Cindy Sanders "Discovering Our Future" 2019-2020
- Angelina Dietz "Stronger Together" 2020-2021
- Cindy Unstead "Stand Out, Stand for Our Dream" 2021-2022
- Laura Morris "Begin" 2022-2023
- Tracey Pierson "Believe in Yourself" 2023-2024
- Jane Hanson "Make a Colorful Difference" 2024-2025



USWT YEAR END CONVENTION

June 13 – 14, 2025

Radisson Duluth Harborview

505 West Superior St.

Duluth, MN 55802

Greetings from Duluth, MN!

A lot has been happening since you last heard from us! Registrations are flying in! We now have greater than forty (40) registrations and more than forty (40) cruises booked! Keep those registrations coming in ladies!

In January, some of our volunteers met Char and I at the Radisson for a walk-thru to get an idea of where things will be. Tonight, we met to discuss what each committee will be doing. We have ideas, they have ideas, and together everything is coming together.

We are selling ads to help defray the cost of printing etc. Please refer to our ad sizes and prices in this issue of Today's Leader. A Full-Page ad will cost \$20, Half Page is \$15, and a Quarter Page ad will cost \$10.

Those who are coming early for the Vista Cruise on the afternoon of Thursday, June 12th, the cruise will board at 3:00 PM and we will leave the shore at 3:30 PM. The ship will be back in the harbor at 5:00 PM. For those who do not know what the Vista Cruise is, it is a sightseeing tour of Lake Superior and the Duluth-Superior Harbor. All tours feature a tour guide, indoor and outdoor seating, as well as a cash bar.

While we have been busy here, we know that President Jane and her Staff have been busy too! They have a big job in planning the entire convention! We provide the space and the physical aspects of the convention. The rest is up to the National President and her staff. So, if you see Jane, thank her for all she is doing to ensure that we have an awesome convention!

Sincerely,

Sharon Bergquist
Duluth Women of Today
Chair USWT YE Convention 2025

Char Ostenberg
Duluth Women of Today
Co-Chair

Celebrate!

United States Women of Today Year End Convention

June 13 - 14, 2025

40 Years of Friendship and Support

(218) 481-1185

Radisson Duluth Harborview

505 W Superior St

Duluth, MN 55805

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

WT MEMBER _____ GUEST _____ FIRST TIMER _____ HOME CHAPTER _____ STATE _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ MEANS of TRANSPORTATION: _____

If by air: Airline _____ Flight # _____ ETA _____ Will you need pickup Y / N _____

Sunday Departure Time: _____ (If you need pickup or a ride to the airport we can arrange that for you)

Saturday Menu: Luncheon -- Baked Potato Bar

Banquet - Choose One:

_____ *Champagne Chicken*

Grilled chicken breasts with mushroom champagne sauce, served with mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables

_____ *Baked Salmon*

Topped with sweet honey garlic glaze served with mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables

_____ *Vegetarian Option:*

Fettuccini Alfredo

Dietary Restriction _____

ROOM RESERVATIONS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY! CALL (218) 481-1185 BY MAY 12, 2025

MENTION WOMEN OF TODAY FOR CONVENTION RATE:

\$139.00 per Night 1 – 4 people

Rooms have 2 (two) queen beds or 1 (one) king bed

CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

FULL

\$120 _____

ADVANCE

LATE (after May 12, 2025)

\$130 _____

Full registration includes Friday Night Party, and ALL of Saturday. **(The Cruise on Thursday is optional)**

Friday Night Party

\$25 _____

\$25 _____

VISTA CRUISE \$25 _____

Saturday Forums/Meetings

\$25 _____

\$25 _____

Thursday, June 12

Saturday Luncheon

\$25 _____

\$30 _____

3PM Board, Cruise 3:30

Saturday Banquet

\$45 _____

\$50 _____

non-refundable unless

SATURDAY ONLY

\$95 _____

\$105 _____

cruise is cancelled

TOTAL CONVENTION _____ + Cruise _____ = _____

TO ALL ATTENDEES: OUTSIDE FOOD AND BEVERAGES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CONVENTION FACILITIES

Make checks or money orders payable to Duluth Women of Today

Mail registration to: USWT Convention

c/o Duluth Women of Today

P.O. Box 16756 Duluth, MN 55816

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Any questions contact:

Sharon Bergquist 218-390-4720 bergq72@gmail.com or

Char Ostenberg 218-591-7202 charandbob315@charter.net

1/4 page ad= \$10

Full page ad price = \$20

Ads are available in the USWT Year-End 2025 Convention Booklet. This booklet will feature letters from the national president, hosting chapter president, and hosting chairs; event schedule training session listing; meeting agendas and minutes; and other information. All attendees will receive a booklet, so it's a great opportunity to reach our members across the nation. You can use this ad to thank someone special, inform attendees of your upcoming events, or give them an inspirational message. The following ad sizes are available: full-page for \$20, half-page for \$15, or quarter-page for \$10. All ads may be in color and need to be formatted as you want them to appear, then sent electronically as a PDF file.

1/2 page ad= \$15

Please contact chardwt@gmail.com to order or for more information. Payment for ads should be made out to "Duluth Women of Today" with "USWTYE2025 booklet" in the memo line, and mailed to Duluth Women of Today, PO Box 16756, Duluth MN 55816.



Parliamentarian Today's Leader

Michelle McGowan CONTACT: parli@uswomenoftoday.org

Hi Women of Today Members!

Welcome to Trimester 3 and warmer weather! Now is the time for the big push to accomplish the goals you set for yourself during Trimester 1. I know you can all do it, you have the strength and perseverance to achieve great things! I hope you are thinking about your next step in Women of Today for the 2025-2026 year. Below is information that can help with your elections.

Remember to send me your Bylaws and Policies so I can review them for you. Also, my 3rd Trimester Challenge is to **send me information of your Bylaws and Policy review. Date, time, how many motions came from it if you held it already.** You will get your name in a drawing for a gift card.

BYLAWS AND YOUR STATE/CHAPTER ELECTIONS!

Leadership is always an important aspect of an organization's success. But remember it's not the title that gives someone power - a person holding a leadership position only has the power that is given to that position as stated in the bylaws. Be sure to remind those members that are interested in a leadership role in your state/chapter to review the bylaws and policies to see what duties and responsibilities are outlined there. They are responsible for performing those duties, whether the person who held the office before them did or not. A suggestion would be to hand out or place in the newsletter that section of the bylaws.

Before you begin the nomination and election process you **NEED** to check your state/chapter/district bylaws. There are rules regulating your elections and nominations in the bylaws and you **MUST** follow them.

WHO NOMINATES AND HOW DO YOU DO IT?

A nomination is a formal proposal to the voting body in an election to fill an office or position, suggesting a particular person as the one who should be elected. Common methods of nominations are:

- Nominations by a committee Nominations from the floor
- Nominations by the chair Nomination by ballot
- Nominations by mail Nomination by petition

Nominations by committee and from the floor are the most common methods. They are usually done in connection with each other. The nominating committee first gives its report and then the presiding officer asks for nominations from the floor.

Nominating Committee

Candidates for offices may be selected by a nominating committee. The committee should consider nominees who have demonstrated the abilities to handle the jobs for which they are nominated. Most state/chapter/district bylaws list special qualifications for office holders. The nominating committee may be composed of outgoing officers or senior members because they should understand the duties required of the offices. It is most common to include the Past President and two other members from your chapter. Refer to your state/chapter/district bylaws.

Nomination Process

When the nominating committee is called for its report, the chairman rises and says, "Ms. President, the nominating committee submits the following nominations. For President, Mary A., For Vice President, Sally M. etc."

Nominations do not require a second. As the nomination is made, the chairman repeats it and the secretary records it. It is not necessary to accept the report of the nominating committee. Nominations made by a committee are treated just as if made by members from the floor. The chairman must inquire if there are any further nominations. No member may nominate more than one candidate for each office.

It is not necessary to have a motion to close nominations when only one name for an office is suggested. Two calls for additional nominations should be sufficient to ensure that all who wish to make nominations have had an opportunity to do so. If no additional names are suggested for an office, the chairman may announce, "The nominations are closed, and we shall proceed with the election.

A motion to close the nominations may be made if the list of candidates is getting too long. It is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

Prior to voting but following the formal closing of nominations, nominations may be reopened by a motion, which requires only a majority to carry.

Voting on Nominations

If all nominations are completed at once, you can use a single ballot to vote for all offices, this is a faster ballot vote than doing each office separately.

The tellers then tally the votes and the results are given to the chair to announce. If there is an office where there was no majority, the chair announces "no election" and another ballot is done. For offices where a majority was won, the chair announces the winner. Balloting continues until someone has won the majority of votes.

We have four bylaws and five policies that will be voted on at National Year End Meeting in Duluth. The policies will be voted on at the Board of Directors meeting and the bylaws will be voted on at the Business meeting. The motions are listed below:

Bylaw motions:

I move that we delete the wording in Article II, Section 1, which states, "The purpose of this corporation shall be to encourage, foster and support the growth and establishment of the U.S. Women of Today state and local member chapters," **and replace with:**

Section 1 Mission, Vision, Benefits

A. Mission Statement

"Our mission is to provide opportunities in the areas of community service, leadership training, personal growth and work in partnerships with multiple charities."

B. Vision Statement

"We are passionate people of action... Empowering individuals to make a difference in their lives and communities."

C. Benefits Statement

Benefits from participating in Women of Today:

- **United in our vision to make a difference through service and community involvement**
- **Enrich and empower women in our communities**
- **Foster a welcoming and inclusive social experience**
- **Women gain confidence to lead**
- **Creating supportive connections as we develop lifelong friendships.**

I move that we relocate Article II, Section 2, which states, "This organization shall be non-partisan and non-sectarian. It shall wholly abstain from any political affiliation or endorsement of candidates for political office and be dedicated solely to performing functions affecting the civic, educational, recreational, and social interests of the community, state, and nation," **to Article I and renumber as Section 7.**

I move that we remove the word PURPOSE from ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND CREED to read: **ARTICLE II CREED.**

I move that we change Article II Section 3 to be titled **Article II CREED.**

Policy motions:

I move that we amend Policy 2, Section 1.B. by adding the words 'a' and 'Program Managers' so that it reads: The internal programming area shall have a Wellness and Personal Development Program Manager.

I move that we amend Policy 2, Section 3.C.1.A. to read **Writing Competition \$5.00.**

I move that we add Policy 2, Section 3.C.3. to read **Minimum of three (3) competitors for Speaking and Writing competitions.**

I move that we remove Board of Directors and replace with Executive Committee in Policy 13, Section 1.A.5. so that it reads: Dues Billing Contract Committee will make a recommendation for dues billing provider to the **Executive Committee** for approval at the National Mid-Year Meeting.

I move that we remove Board of Directors and replace with Executive Committee and add the word National in Policy 13, Section 2.A.5. so that it reads: Webmaster Contract Committee will make a recommendation for Webmaster to the **Executive Committee** for approval at the **National** Mid-Year Meeting.

Upcoming Membership Monthly Conversation

*US Women of Today is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Join us to share successes that your chapter is having and brainstorm solutions for membership challenges you are experiencing!*

Time: Mar 17, 2025 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84772794226?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84772794226?pwd=SlvSCV7t1jGbDaXIENHSA5DAc_vyMzJ.1)

pwd=SlvSCV7t1jGbDaXIENHSA5DAc_vyMzJ.1

Meeting ID: 847 7279 4226

Passcode: 273837



*Shine a
Light on
Finances*

March 2025

Bonnie Waller
USWT Treasurer
treasurer@uswomenoftoday.org
Website:
www.uswomenoftoday.org

Howdy Treasurers!

Ways and Means Year End Fundraiser - Can you say FUDGE?



We will be selling Walnut Grove Mercantile fudge and caramels again this year. The fudge/caramels sell for \$10 a box (1/2 pound). The USWT will get \$5 per box sold. My personal goal is to sell at least 150 boxes.

This year all orders will be placed and paid for online. There will be two options for receiving your orders:

1. You can pick up the fudge/caramels at year end convention in Duluth. (Or have someone pick up your order for you.)
2. The fudge/caramels can be shipped to an address you specify for an additional \$15 shipping fee for up to 12 boxes.

I will order a few extra boxes to sell at convention, but please order online so that you get what you want. They recommend not to refrigerate the fudge, but it freezes well. So, you could bring back orders for your chapter or friends and freeze the fudge until you see them!

The link to order will be available on the USWT web site and USWT Administration page on Facebook. Sales will run April 22nd thru May 26th.

Mark your calendars! Upcoming fundraiser

Celebrate Cinco De Mayo a day early with virtual BINGO. Sunday May 4th.

Watch for details in the next Todays Leader and posted on the USWT web site and USWT Administration page on Facebook later in April.



Reminder: Third trimester challenges are due to me by May 1st.

Third Trimester Challenges:

1. Hold a Ways and Means fundraiser. Send me a description of the fundraiser, summary of its success and how much money was raised.
2. Donate \$25 or more to USWT Ways and Means. All states/chapters/individuals donating will be entered into a drawing at yearend.



Shine a Light on Finances

TREASURER CHECK LIST FOR YEAR END

- _____ Have all the checks been issued and all deposits completed for the 2024-25 period? There should be a record of each check and each deposit – provide written detail as necessary so that the incoming treasurer and/or audit committee can verify financial transactions for the year.
- _____ Are all bank statements reconciled to the checkbook and any other accounts? The incoming treasurer will want to start the year with balanced books. Also, include a list of outstanding checks and deposits.
- _____ Provide incoming treasurer with copies of all monthly (or other timed reporting) treasurer reports.
- _____ Are budget records up to date? Use these records to provide a report that compares budgeted income and expenses to what was actually received and spent. This report will provide a financial history for your chapter for the year, and it can be used to develop a budget for the new year.
- _____ Has all project activity been reported to the state and national levels? Please make sure you do so as this information can be used for public relations purposes and in grant applications.
- _____ Are all renewals and new members accounted for, and dues mailed in to your state contact? This will ensure that the members are accurately recorded, and dues are paid to the USWT.
- _____ If your state requires collection and payment of sales tax, have you taken care of the required reporting and payment? If not, check with your appropriate state office for assistance.

TIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- Contact the bank for your checking/savings accounts to find out what is needed to update the signature cards.
- Oversee preparation of the budget for the new year. You should be able to use your records from current and prior years to determine the budget for the new year. The budget should be approved by the chapter members as soon as possible at the start of the new year.
- Train the new treasurer and be available to answer questions.
- Check to make sure the records are complete—and then turn them over to the new treasurer.
- An audit/review of the current ending year treasurer books is highly recommended. Arrange to get the necessary records for the audit/review committee. (You should not be part of the committee but be available for questions.)



Mary Hansen – USWT Secretary
2024-2025
secretary@uswomenoftoday.org

Hello to everyone!

We are getting close to our year end! What a great time I have had working with all of you and preparing the Today's Leader for all to read. I hope that you have enjoyed them and found them useful this year. Please watch for the All Chapter Mailing to be issued in April – it will have lots of useful information to help wind up your year end and prepare for the new year.

My third trimester challenge is to send me an email that contains 3 items:

- ***What has been your highlight of this year and why (this does not have to be related to your position)***
- ***What has been a challenge this year and how did you work through the issue***
- ***What would be a piece of advice that you would pass on to your successor***

Mary Hansen

A Few Helpful Hints to Having Useful Minutes

- 1) Type your minutes as soon as possible. You will be surprised how quickly we forget what our scribbles really mean.
- 2) Ask for written reports! Use Motion Slips!
- 3) Make sure your minutes answer who, what, where, when and why.
- 4) Be brief and concise. Minutes should record decisions made and actions taken – not what is said.
- 5) Record events in the past tense.
- 6) Publish your minutes in your chapter/district newsletter.
- 7) It is not necessary to make a motion to accept the minutes. Minutes are approved by the membership, either as written or with noted corrections/additions.
- 8) Minutes should contain:
 - A. Name, date, place and type of meeting
 - B. Time convened and adjourned
 - C. Attendance list
 - D. Whether a quorum is present. Refer to your bylaws for what constitutes a quorum.
 - E. Treasurer's report of account balances
 - F. Action taken on items of business
 - G. Information on projects such as date, programming area, number of members participating, dollars raised and to whom donated, and service hours.
- 9) Remember, minutes are factual recordings of any action taken. Be certain that you listen closely and are clear on what was discussed.

Golden Star Volunteer Recognition

As we strive to make a difference in our communities, there are many individuals who offer their continued support to our organization. This year, we would like to recognize those individuals who help us achieve our goals and encourage our members and chapters. These individuals could be a spouse, relative, or a local business that has been especially helpful to your chapter or our organization. The recognition can be for any type of project – local, state, or national or for general support.

You can find the form on the US Website under Staff/President. On this page is the option to complete and submit on line or print out the PDF and email to the National President at president@uswomenoftoday.org.

President Jane wants to recognize a lot of non-members who support our chapters at Annual Convention. Please consider nominating those people and organizations that help you be “Colorful” in all you do.



BUCKETS OF SUNSHINE

What is Buckets of Sunshine Project?

- It is a national project to promote “buckets” filled with personal care products to local crisis centers (particularly focused towards women and children).
- Another goal is to have a donation campaign that the public can align with Women of Today.
- This allows chapters in the US Women of Today to work towards a common goal and to create media attention for our organization at the same time.
- Chapters can choose shelters in their area to support and collect “Buckets” of needed items to support throughout the year.
- The US Women of Today with the hosting chapter/state of the Annual convention, chooses a local shelter in the hosts city to support by providing “Buckets” of needed items and cash. Safe Haven is the shelter that we will support at Annual Convention in Duluth, June 13th and 14th.

Reporting:

Once your chapter has identified and participated in a Buckets of Sunshine Project, please complete a Buckets of Sunshine Participation Form; go to Member Resources/ Buckets of Sunshine. You can submit on line or print a PDF form and send to the Public Relations Director at pr@uswomenoftoday.org.

Contact Cindy Golbuff, PR Director for more information at pr@uswomenoftoday.org.



United States Women of Today 2024-2025 Golden Star Award

As we strive to make a difference in our communities, there are many individuals who offer their continued support to our organization. This year, I would like to recognize those individuals who help us achieve our goals and encourage our members and chapters. These individuals could be a spouse, relative, or a local business that has been especially helpful to your chapter or our organization. The recognition can be for any type of project - local, state, or national.

This award is for non-members only.

Fill in the information below explaining why you feel this person, company, or organization deserves this award.

Name of Person Nominating: _____

Chapter/State: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to nominate: _____

who is _____ for the "Golden Star" award because:

(relationship to chapter/state/national)

(Use the back of this form if you need more room)

Send or email form to: Jane Hanson
31078 790th Avenue
Madelia MN 56062
president@uswomenoftoday.org
uswt2425presjane@gmail.com

Shellie Matthes
Membership VP
mvp@uswomenoftoday.org



The **Secret** to Growing Membership

When you are gathered at a chapter meeting, share your stories about how you came to U.S.W.T. Some stories may be humorous and some may be similar. For example, “When I met Sally. . .,” “When Jane called me. . .,” or “When Barb invited. . .,” etc.

So many of our members have one thing in common they joined because someone invited them to join. Be encouraging and enthusiastic when reaching out to people about Women of Today. When you meet someone who you think would make a positive addition to Women of Today invite them to come and meet your chapter members. Do not miss out on inviting busy women because you never know when the time may be right for a prospective member. Never assume they are too busy; give them the opportunity to make the decision for themselves.

Sometimes it takes more than one attempt. Do not give up on prospectives!

Talk about Women of Today. Wear U.S.W.T. shirts, state WT shirts or your chapter WT shirt! Talk, talk, talk about Women of Today. Talk about the blessings WT has brought into your life. Women of Today can bring a feeling of inclusion and belonging. Women of Today can provide the opportunity to grow and the gift of being a leader in any role you decide to try. Cannot forget the friendships and bonds that are formed. Women of Today members provide a wonderful support system and lifelong friends.

I love the way the noise volume increases in the room when a group of WT friends get together!

The power is within each of us to grow Women of Today. Take the opportunities in front of you to bring more wonderful women into your chapter and share the magic and many blessings that come with membership.

In friendship ~



CHALLENGE

For the third trimester, I am Challenging all chapters to help us grow by forty (40) new members between March and April to celebrate our 40 years! The names of all new members will be placed into a drawing for **\$40 cash!** Yes, cold hard cash!! 40 smackaroos!! The chapters that sign a new member and submit the new member(s) through the USWT website link will receive a colorful ticket to be first in line for the luncheon at the USWT Annual Convention in Duluth!!

Sample

Ticket holder has earned the incentive to be first in line at the U.S.W.T Year end luncheon!! Congratulations!!

March Challenge

I will be posting St. Patrick's Day trivia questions daily on the Membership Facebook page. Those members who respond with the correct answer will be placed in drawing for a "lucky" gift. Any member(s) that answer all the questions correctly will be placed in drawing for some "Leprechaun gold."



April Challenge

Chapters that complete and submit a form by May 1 for either or both:

Fellowship Builder or

All American Chapter

In addition to the Certificate will receive an additional gift to acknowledge your accomplishment.

Follow, like and share Women of Today official accounts on:

Facebook at: United States Women of Today; USWT Administration; USWT Membership Page; USWT Programming

Tips for Retention

- We have members who we have not seen in a while, now what? Share with them the highlights of the upcoming meeting. Offer them a ride. Give them a reason to show up.
- We have a lot of long-term members who do not contribute like they used to, now what? Include an information article each month in your newsletter. Keep topics positive and group orientated. Consider topics like the benefits of being a big sis, why co-chairs make volunteering fun, the benefits of having prepared reports at general meetings, and how volunteering is good for the body and mind.
- Some members are losing interest. Personally invite members to participate in your chapter's socials and events. Ask them to co-chair projects with you. Send them a participation survey to see what they are interested in.
- Longtime members are only active part-time. Ask them if everything is okay, do they need anything? Ask them to co-chair projects with you. Make it a group effort. Each month have a different member calling other members to participate in your chapter socials. Ask them to be a Big Sis/Buddy. Remind them that they have a lot to offer a new member.
- Announce and notify members at the beginning of each trimester that their renewal dues are coming up. Affirm their value to your chapter. Invite them to renew their membership.



What to say to a member that may be thinking of not renewing.

How do I know a member may be considering not renewing?

- Has not attended a meeting or social for quite a long time and no one seems to know why
- Talks about being overwhelmed by all their obligations (work, family etc.)
- They or a family member has serious health issues
- Has had a recent conflict with another individual in the chapter
- Talks about quitting Women of Today
- May be suffering from some financial setbacks

What can you do or say?

- Approach member by phone or in person to let them know you've been thinking about them
- Listen (really listen) to their response
- Let them know you really care and are sympathetic to their situation
- Reassure them the chapter understands she/he is unable to participate at this time and will be there ready to welcome them back when they are ready
- If family obligations are the major concern, reassure them that we all understand that family comes first
- If finances are a concern, let them know the chapter may be able to pay her dues
- Ask them if they would mind if you shared the situation with others in the chapter
- Don't try to convince them to stay; rather demonstrate concern
- Suggest ways you and chapter members can help (visit aging parent, provide meals, etc.)

What if they still indicate they do not want to renew?

- Remind them that their dues are paid until the end of their renewing Trimester so they will still be considered an active member until then
- In certain situations, suggest a transfer to another chapter, if another is nearby, and offer to help with the transfer process
- Ask if she would like to continue to receive chapter emails or Newsletter
- Let them know they can return to the chapter, at any time, quite easily
- Encourage chapter members to continue to stay in touch
- Continue to invite them to chapter socials and other activities where Women of Today business is not being conducted



SPECIAL challenge for March and April

There will be several opportunities to have a chance to win Cold, Hard Cash [how does a Benjamin sound?] at Year-End Convention. Email me (extensions@uswtwt.org) when you have completed each step. I will post reminders on Facebook and my USWT website page to keep everyone informed.

- #1: Choose a community to “Reach Out” to and pick a date to start
- #2: Prepare flyers and/or place an ad in the local newspaper for the initial event
- #3: Hold a meet & greet/informational event; take pictures
- #4: Do a project together to benefit the community or just do a craft activity for a social; take pictures

Tips to Help you Start and Successfully Complete an Extension:

- **When considering a good location for a new chapter**, there are many things to think about—where is a new community that has no previous connection to our projects and membership events; what areas are developing with new schools and new housing neighborhoods; what towns lie on the border of states that already have chapters and could bring about collaboration of chapters from two states; and geographically what communities could bring chapters closer to each other.
- **Important aspects to remember when recruiting new members** in a new community can include emphasizing the benefit of social connections and support of friendships, an age variability which can bring value in energy, resources, and wisdom; projects that can help the community but be fun in which members can participate. Each community will have its own unique characteristics as far as age, service projects, other organizations with which to partner.
- **Want help with the “Best Tips” to get started** and get your members excited, contact me and I can help!
- **Extensions is basically a step further from recruiting, just with people you may not know.** One way to start might be to invite prospective members to your own chapter meeting so they can get a feel for what our organization is all about. If you are on an Extensions team and become part of the spark and energy of new members, it can be very rewarding and energizing.

I challenge you to step a bit out of your comfort zone and have fun doing it! I look forward to hearing from you! Let’s finish strong!



Cindy Golbuff – PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR
“B the Buzz PR”
CONTACT: pr@uswomenoftoday.org
March-April 2025- TL

Welcome Spring Time!

What is your chapter doing to share the wonderful work that USWT is doing in your community? Are you making posts to your chapter/state Facebook pages? We have so many wonderful upcoming activities that you can share. March 8 is International Women’s Day with the theme of “Accelerate Action”; this is a wonderful way to tie in what your chapter/state is doing to positively impact women's advancement. National Volunteer Week is scheduled for April 20-26, 2025, this year with the theme of “Connecting Communities”. What are your plans to honor the volunteers that help your community, chapter, state?

Make sure you turn in the Shout Out with Public Relations form again for Tri 3 to be recognized with a larger certificate. The form should reflect any activities for Volunteer Week/Random Act of Kindness Day and should be submitted to me by May 5, 2025. I might even add a special gift for those that complete Tri 3. The updated form has been added to the PR Director’s page on the USWT website. Click on this link for PR example to use for National Volunteer Week. [USWT PR Samples](#)

Please reach out to me if there is anything I can do to help out. Hope to see many of you in Duluth for Year-End convention.

Cindy Golbuff

There is much information and helpful hints on the USWT Administration Facebook page. [USWT Administration | Facebook](#) Are you a member of this FB page? If you haven’t already joined/follow this page, please do so.

Quick trivia: What was PP- Deb VanMatre’s theme for her year? Answer can be found on USWT Facebook page. [USWT Administration | Facebook](#)

What year did the USWT national newsletter “Today’s Leader” start?

**Enjoy the attached USWT crossword puzzle.

3rd Trimester Challenges:



Volunteer Week- Send in or email by 5/5/25. Shout out with Public Relations form for an incentive. This form is used each trimester to celebrate your chapter’s Public Relations activities. Click below to fill out the form:

[EmailMe Form - USWT Shout Out with Public Relations Participation](#)



Bucket of Sunshine Project report: Looking for 15 chapters to share/submit their BOS project by May 15. All submissions will be entered into a gift drawing.



What is Buckets of Sunshine Project?

A national project to promote "Buckets" filled with personal care products to local crisis centers.

Each chapter is encouraged to participate by providing Buckets of Sunshine in their community as well as in the USWT Buckets of Sunshine for the Annual Meeting. The Safe Haven of Duluth is the shelter we will support at Annual Convention, June 13-14, 2025.

Reporting: Once your chapter has participated in a BOS project, please complete the BOS on the USWT website: [EmailMe Form - USWT Buckets of Sunshine Participation](#) or print PDF and send to PR Director. (Me 😊)
Reach out to me for more information: pr@uswomenoftoday.org

MARCH- APRIL EMPHASIS MONTHS:

*MEMBERSHIP, HEALTH & WELLNESS, U.S. FOUNDER'S CHARITIES

*PUBLIC RELATIONS

*OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PROGRAMMING

The organization that the Duluth WT chapter selected for the Buckets of Sunshine for Year End 2025 is Safe Haven Shelter.

Look to the USWT Facebook pages for additional information. Please share with your chapters. Watch for these posts and then follow the USWT Year-End 2024 Facebook for the latest updates, challenges and fun!

Chapter PR Challenge:

I'm all "abuzz" in anticipation of the many emails I will receive. 😊

Would love to see your PR material. Send 2 of the following to pr@uswomenoftoday.org and receive an incentive for all entries 🐝 s. **Due 5/1/25.**

- Chapter flyer
- Chapter brochure
- QR code to your chapter information
- A chapter activity/event with your banner posted/brochures out (take a photo/email it to me)

I want to remind everyone that when you are out and about, share Women of Today with women you meet. Do you have a chapter brochure that you can carry in your purse or backpack ready to share? How about chapter business cards to hand out or post on community bulletin boards? If you need help designing either of the above marketing tools, just contact me and we can work on it together.

I want to wish everyone a fun and safe St. Patrick's Day, and a wonderful Easter. Enjoy your time with family and friends!

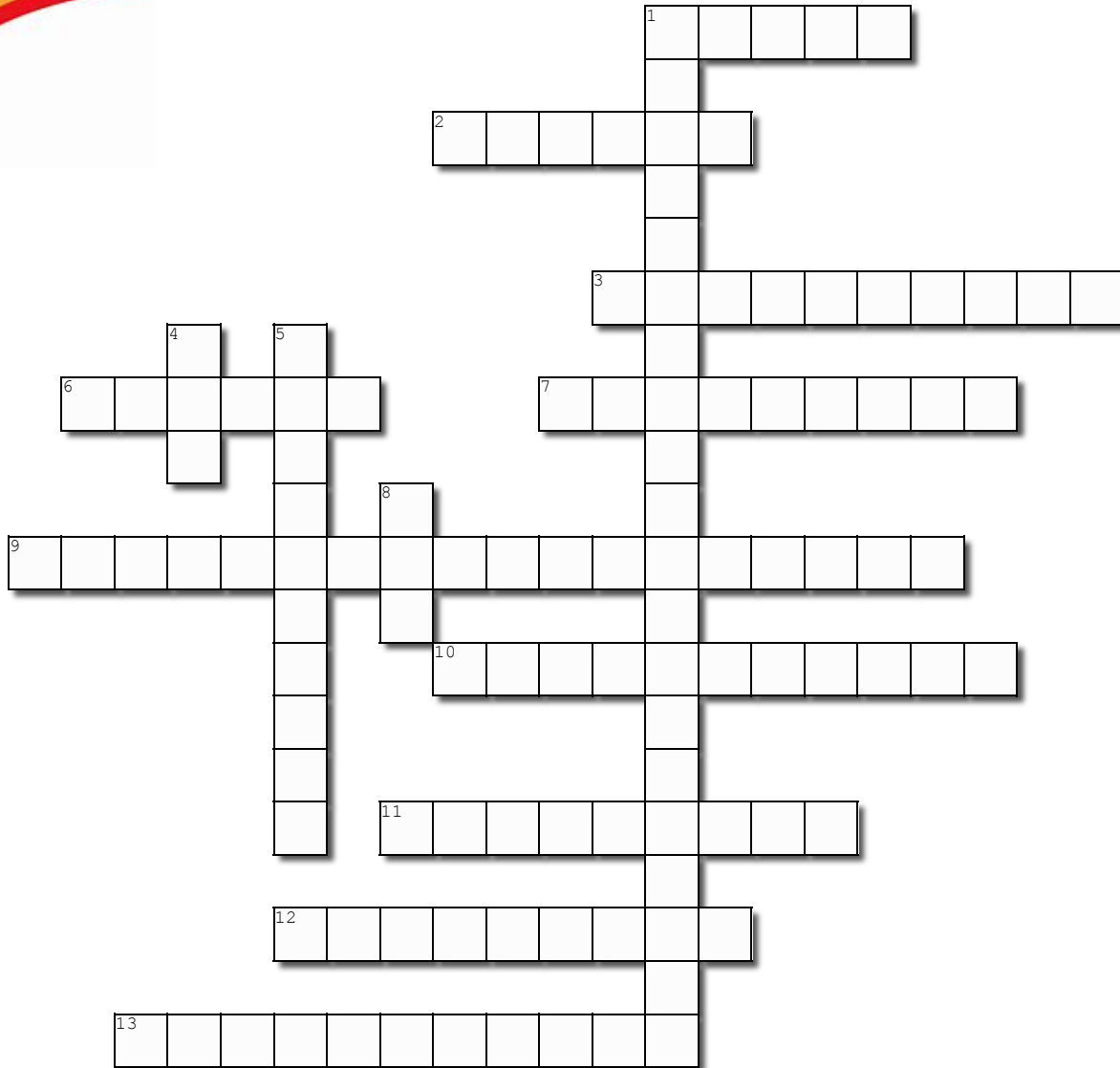




Name: _____

USWT Crossword

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. What month has Volunteer Recognition week?
2. What is DVA color
3. Outstanding USWT member
6. Who is the COB
7. Charter Chairman
9. What is the website address?
10. USWT President
11. 2025 Bucket of Sunshine project
12. Theme of Year End Convention
13. Award for non members only

Down

1. Award for chapters with a well-rounded program of projects and activities
4. Arizona State President
5. March Emphasis month
8. Name of PP with the theme 'Sharing the Vision'



Lisa Hahn Programming Vice President
pvp@uswomenoftoday.org

Hello to All,

This trimester is going fast. There is still so much we can do. I'm sure with Spring coming just around the corner many of us are thinking, let's see what we can do for our communities before May! If you complete a few more projects, send me a quick **Community Connections report**. I can't wait to see our final numbers at Annual.

I want to continue to encourage you to send in your **Project Library report forms**. I did not receive many second trimester. I have an incentive this trimester, **everyone that sends in a Project Report will receive an incentive from me in June at convention.**

My 3rd Trimester Challenge: FOOD DRIVE-Deadline April 30th 2025

Just a reminder: my challenge for this trimester is to either raise funds for your local food pantries or hold a food drive. You could make it as simple as having your chapter members drop off food items or hold a community wide food drive, or you could deliver food baskets to local families in need. The options are limitless. Send me an Email by May 1st to let me know what you did. We would love to see your pictures as well on Facebook.

OUTSTANDING ACHEIVEMENT IN PROGRAMMING

All members can complete the Outstanding Achievement in Programming Certificate. It is the highest recognition a general WT member can receive in programming. Here is the link to the on-line form:

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/2uO770fxqla4fajko>



Dawn Nissen
USWT DVA Program Manager
dva@uswomenoftoday.org

Signs of Love Bombing

Love bombing is an attempt to influence another person with over-the-top displays and affection. The typical story involves an uninterested character who is being pursued by an eager suitor. The pursuer consistently violates the uninterested character's boundaries until they fall in love and decide to be together. This kind of behavior is a form of **emotional abuse**, and although it can be experienced during any stage of a relationship, it is often seen in the early stages of getting to know one another.

There are many ways a person can exhibit signs of love bombing, but here are four common examples that will help you identify if love bombing is happening to you or someone you know.

Sign #1 "Soulmate" Status

When love bombing occurs, often labels such as "soulmate", "their person," or "their other half" are applied early in the relationship. While it may feel validating to be considered as an important figure in their lives, it could be a cause for concern if you have not known them very long, or if you feel uncomfortable.

Sign #2 Exaggerated Compliments

Compliments are a great way to show that you're interested in each other. It is not unusual to exchange compliments in a relationship, especially as you are getting to know one another. However, if the comments your partner is making seem over-the-top, it could be another sign of love bombing, especially if they make you feel uneasy. Here are some examples:

"I can't imagine finding anyone more perfect than you." "My life would be nothing without you"

Sign #3 Gifts

Receiving gifts is a thoughtful way to show you care about your partner. However, receiving presents could be a tactic used to manipulate the relationship later. If gifts are later associated with stipulations such as "I paid your mortgage this month, so don't speak to me like that," or "I bought you drinks, so you owe me and dance," they could be an additional sign of love bombing. If you feel uncomfortable about the gifts you receive, it could be a good idea to have a conversation with your partner about your concerns.

Sign #4 Communication Overload

When you first establish your relationship, you may speak to your partner more frequently, because you are learning about each other and your desires for your relationship. Good communication is required to have a solid and healthy relationship, but you should not be feeling overwhelmed by the amount of communication you are receiving. This could be an excellent time to talk about how you feel and find a way to communicate with each other that works for both of you.

Purple Thursday Contest

The 3rd Thursday each month wear purple and post your photos on the USWT Programming Facebook page or email me with your name, chapter and state to dva@uswomenoftoday.org. Each time you post your picture, your name will go into a drawing for Year End.

**3rd Trimester Challenge
(March)**

Let's hear ideas on how to support DVA. Email me at dva@uswomenoftoday.org or post on the USWT Programming Facebook page how your chapters or states support DVA. For each idea shared, you will be entered into a drawing for Year End.

**3rd Trimester Challenge
(April)**

With the Luminary walk at Year End Banquet, I challenge chapters or states to decorate bags as a group. Each chapter or state that posts a picture or emails me a picture will be placed into a drawing for a \$25 donation to your local shelter. A minimum of 5 bags will need to be decorated.

Each bag is a \$5.00 donation to Domestic Violence.

You can mail the money to me or bring to Convention. Please reach out to me at dva@uswomenoftoday.org for any questions.

**US Buckets of Sunshine Year End Project
Support of Safe Haven, Duluth MN**

Safe Haven Shelter and Resource Center serves a seven-county area in northern Minnesota. They provide services and education for more than 1,500 adults and children annually. Their Mission is to provide safety, space to heal, advocacy, and empowerment for women, children, and all survivors of domestic violence.

Below is a "WISH LIST" of items the shelter can use. Feel free to start collecting items and bring them to Year-End 2025 in Duluth, MN in June. Monetary donations are also being accepted. Checks made out to "US Women of Today" with "Buckets of Sunshine 2025" in the memo line. They can be sent to USWT Public Relations Director Cindy Golbuff.

- **Bedding:** Twin, Full- & Queen-sized comforters and blankets, twin sized sheets, pillowcases, large throw blankets and pillows. We are NOT in need of baby blankets at this time.
- **Culturally specific hair care products:** Brushes, jam combs, hair grease, hair lotions, shampoos, conditioners, and hair scarves, wraps, or bonnets.
- **Cleaning items:** Clorox wipes, all purpose cleaners, tall garbage bags, laundry pods, laundry bags and paper towels.
- **Bathroom items:** Body towels, wash cloths and toilet paper.
- **Hygiene products:** Deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, lotion, razors, combs and menstrual products (pads and tampons).
- **Clothing items:** We ask that these items all be new and unused. Sweatpants, pajamas, sports bras, bras, underwear, flip-flops, hard bottom slippers, socks (specifically for women's shoe size 8 and larger). We are NOT accepting any used clothing donations at this point.
- **General items:** Water bottles, forks, spoons, journals, notebooks, undated planners, backpacks, duffle bags, first aid kits, ear buds and noise cancelling headphones, no-contract, pay by the minute phones and old cell phones.
- **Infant items:** Baby wipes, diapers (we are currently only in need of size 4 and larger).
- **Seasonal items:** Winter coats and winter boots.



WPD Certifications

Keep those certifications coming in! Have you seen my State Certification Challenge? The state with the highest percentage of certified members will win a prize at US Annual Convention. Will it be your state?

WPD CERTIFICATION TOPIC:

Let's go over some of the more common certification items that if you're an active member, should be easy to complete:

Write an article for a chapter, district or national newsletter

You don't need to be a chapter board member to complete this. Any member should be able to write a quick article for their chapter newsletter. Maybe something about DVA, team building, or Women in General.

Chair a Project

This is actually my 3rd trimester challenge for March & April – Intellectual Wellness. So boom!, you've just completed my challenge, and your certification!

Participate in a Leadership or Team-Building Exercise (or both)

This can be done at a chapter meeting, takes only about 10-15 minutes, and can help your whole chapter certify.

Hold a local, state or national office

If you're currently holding a position, you've got this one!

That's just four easy items you can check off today. And if you've been reading the Today's Leader, you've also been able to check off: [Learn a New Recipe](#), [Learn a New Craft](#), [Read an Article on a Health Topic](#), and [Check your medication, spice or food cabinet for outdated items](#). You're over halfway done with certification! Keep checking on, and don't forget to submit your form at <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/5x1jlc4rfbE2vdfd5>

SPEAKING COMPETITION

Come join in the Speaking Competition at year-end in Duluth, MN!!

Topic is:

“A moment that made you proud of yourself”

Essay should be 600-800 words

Complete this **Competition Stat Sheet** and bring your **\$5 entry fee** to convention

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/bsby6YqRn6f4Jdb0>

If you entered the Effective Writing competition in October at US Mid-Year you may read your same entry.



United States Women of Today

Wellness and Personal Development Program Manager Manual

Wellness and Personal Development Certification

Name _____ Date Joined _____ Date Certified _____

Chapter/State _____ Email _____

Is designed to assist individuals to be aware of their physical, and mental well-being, along with personal growth, careers and citizenship. This form may be completed once each USWT year. Complete a minimum of 15 of the following items and submit online at www.uswomenoftoday.org. You may also mail to your state contact postmarked no later than May 1

- Have a physical exam
- Know your numbers (cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose, and body mass index)
- Have a dental exam
- Be a registered organ donor
- Have an eye exam
- Donate blood/plasma
- Certify in CPR or First Aid
- Check your medication, spice or food cabinet for outdated items and dispose of them properly
- Exercise a minimum of 3 times per week for one month
- Attend a seminar, health fair, or read an article on a health topic
- Keep a journal for 30 days logging your diet, time management, mood or exercise
- Visit a nursing home, hospital or shut in
- Complete a Speaking competition or Impromptu competition
- Present a 4 – 6 minutes speech
- Enter a writing competition
- Write an article for a chapter, district, state or national newsletter
- Write an essay or short story with 300 or more words, but less than 500 words
- Chair a project
- Participate in a leadership exercise
- Participate in a team-building exercise
- Participate in a chapter project
- Attend a state or United States Women of Today meeting
- Learn a new craft
- Learn a new recipe
- Read a book or listen to an audio book
- Update your will or review your financials
- Volunteer in another organization
- Interview a member of a different generation about changes they have seen in their lifespan
- Interview someone from a different culture or nation.
- ~~Page 27~~ Local, state or national office
- Other: _____

**Arizona Women of Today
Chugging along with Heart**

Hi all from Sunny Arizona,

Our chapters are both growing with members, having meetings, socials, fundraisers and projects.

Upcoming with Valley of the Sun Women of Today is assisting with a Pie Auction for Multiple Sclerosis and an annual bake sale in Sunland Village.

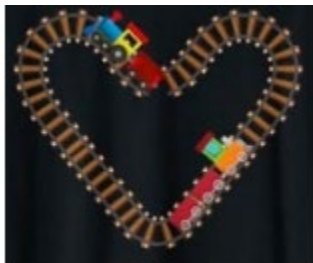
Wild West Women of Today have been active with a membership Game nite, Holiday potluck and gift exchange, meeting and Meet the Baby, show the Baby and Smell the Baby – Baby Shower, making Valentines for Veterans, supporting the Aid to Womens Center and planning to attend As You Wish at their next meeting.

We were very sad to hear of news of Michelle Crandall our thoughts and prayers are with all of her family. Gone too soon.

Looking forward to the rest of the year with wonderful friendships and helping others.

Pat Saulina AZ President,

Chugging along with Heart



USWT Staff visit at Iowa State Meeting - January 2025



Hello USWT Friends,

Brrrr! It is cold here in Illinois currently but we are looking forward to a Spring warm up very soon. Hope this finds you all doing well and staying warm wherever you might be. It is so hard to believe that February is almost over but that just means that we are one step closer to IWT April All State being hosted by Pawnee Women of Today in Springfield area. And we are also one month closer to National Year End in Duluth, MN where we get to see all of our Women of Today friends.

IWT chapters have been busy this winter with meetings, social gatherings, and volunteer/service projects. Springfield Women of Today have been busy with craft nights for Operation Christmas Child that they work on year-round, they also helped Pawnee Women of Today with a service project, Valentine Cards for senior citizens and nursing home residents, and they helped stock the Senior Services Center's emergency pantry. Crystal Lake has been busy with helping support their local domestic violence shelter as well as continuing to meet and enjoy socials. Pawnee Women of Today made Valentine cards as noted above and have done other community projects like donating food to the local food pantry, Valentine treats to the Nursing home along with the cards, supported the local yearbook staff, and are planning to host a wellness speaker in March for the community. Lincoln Land continues to be small but mighty helping out in their communities as best they can.

As we look towards Spring, I wish you all many wonderful adventures in the coming months...whether that is a coveted beach trip to warmer weather or taking a cooking class to learn how to make sourdough bread, or just maybe you are going to adventure into trying a new service project for your chapter or your family. Whatever your adventures may look like, I wish you all well in them.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at Year End in Duluth. Wishing everyone a safe and fun spring season!!

In Kindness,

Aimee Kaiser

Illinois Women of Today President 2024-2026

*Kindness
Lights the Way*





Greetings from Massachusetts,

Our chapters have recovered from their busy holiday seasons and jumped right into the New Year. All six chapters have had events that have increased their treasuries and ability to support our local communities. They have also taken time to appreciate the members by having tea on a cold winter's day with great conversation, Ladies Night Out with Dinner and a movie, socializing after the GM's to enjoy each other's company

and forming book clubs.

MAWT have been committed to supporting our communities and have raised thousands of dollars in events such as a Comedy Night, Daughter and Sweetheart Dance, Son and Someone Special Dance, Quarter Auctions and Pots of Gold. Filled with treats that were delivered to the doorsteps of local children.

In serving our communities, treat bags were provided to homebound seniors for Valentine's Day, high school scholarship recipients are being recruited and HBA items were collected and donated to local shelters. We have been actively recruiting new members and working hard to retain our valuable existing ones. Exciting membership events such as Eat Cake where prospective members were invited to share in tasting and judging a variety of cakes made by members and various local area bakeries. Or, a chocolate tasting event for a variety of delicious experiences. We are definitely MOOVING to New Heights in Massachusetts and adding to our calorie count in the process.

Chapters are working together in preparation for the upcoming Mid-Year Convention in October 2025. Plans and details are being coordinated and shared. Excitement in the planning and preparation have been contagious and bringing more members to experience the state and national level of the Women of Today.

Julie Hutchinson, MAWT President

MOOVING to New Heights in Massachusetts

Happy Spring Ya'll from Minnesota!

Spring seems like it is still a little way off since my kids were just home from school because of cold weather, but here's hoping for green grass and fresh flowers soon!

We were excited to have so many guests at our January convention where we celebrated our 75th Anniversary. It was such a wonderful celebration with nearly 200 people attending some part of the weekend. This has us all ready to party with all of you in June at the USWT Annual Convention in Duluth. We look forward to welcoming you to Minnesota!

This year has been so much fun and we continue to welcome new members to join us. We grew by 16 members in Tri 2 and are well on our way to growth for the year. We started our second extension chapter, the Litchfield Area Women of Today, in February when they chartered with 11 members. They are supported by the Hutchinson Area chapter and are so excited for making a difference in their community. They are accompanying about 30 additional members we have welcomed so far in 2025!

We are focusing now on March Planning, state Committee meetings, and two Regional meetings. These are times we invite our members to provide feedback on the future of our organization as well as meet around the state delivering membership training, talking with members and hearing from the State President candidates. We have zoom calls for chapter MVPs, chapter Presidents and new members for orientation in March. April kicks off our new year too with Local Officer Training Sessions for newly elected chapter officers. This is one of my favorite times of year to see so many new leaders and their energy for MNWT.

We are wishing you all the best and love hearing what you are doing! See you in June in Duluth!

In friendship,

Tevyan Sorensen

MNWT State President 2024-2025

president@mnwt.org

mnwt.org



Thirty-three of the Mrs. Jaycees, Jaycee Women and Women of Today Minnesota state presidents that attended the 75th anniversary celebration held at Winter State Convention.

Hi Everyone!

I hope you are enjoying winter as much as I do! And for those of you who don't like winter, hopefully you're enjoying the nice warm temperatures most of the country is enjoying currently. 😊 Missouri chapters have completed or are working on their traditional spring projects including craft shows, Valentine's Day cookie donations to first responders, prom dress sales, and etc.

Next up is planning our year-end state meeting being held in Kirksville. We are looking forward to coming together to enjoy our friendships, elect officers, host several national staff, learn about the local food pantry, and hold a basket raffle to raise funds for the food pantry.

Enjoy your third trimester and see you in June!

Nancy

Missouri Women of Today





Cherish.Our.Dreams

Maxine Turner
Nebraska State President

Nebraska chapters have been busy this winter working on many service projects, socials, and other fun activities. In the month of December our chapters were busy ringing bells for the Salvation Army, pulling tags from Christmas trees to grant wishes of the elderly, less fortunate and the youth in their communities. We had a few chapters create Christmas Cards for the Veterans at a Veteran home plus cards for our nursing homes residents.

As Nebraska president this year, I decided to step outside of the box and offer some type of seminars through zoom. In the past three months, we have held Stress Management, Goal Setting and Triva (orientation of Women of Today) in the month of January through zoom. So far, we have had four (4) chapters out of six (6) participate at each seminar.

Our board has held their Board Retreat in the first part of February and worked on the schedule for our annual convention. We are looking forward to our national officers attending.

We also have chapters busy with social and M-Nights in the next couple of months.

I was very fortunate to visit our sister states Iowa and Minnesota in the month of January. I am still hoping to visit our sister state, Arizona in March.

Some of our state members are looking forward to seeing all our friends at USWT National Convention in Duluth, MN in June!

North Dakota women of today i'm trying to stay warm. These days of -28 and -32° has been almost paralyzing because of the windchill. We are supposed to warm up this week. I'm not gonna hold my breath.

We are really excited as we gained three new members in the last couple of months. They are young and come with new ideas and new directions for us to go. So welcome to Nancy, Jasmine, Megan, and Laticia.

One of our past members had a fire in her business last night. Everything is gone and we have extended a hand to her to let her know that we are available if she needs help with something. Fire both scares me and fascinate me. She owns a store Where we were able to distribute the giving tree gift as they came in. We still have or had some gifts that weren't picked up in her store that we were hoping to use next year. If you happen to think about it, I'm sure she would welcome a prayer you can give her to help her over this tragedy.

We had a very large giving tree this year. 138 children from 57 families had a better Christmas this year. The community of Stanley is so generous and not just at Christmas. Without their support Stanley Women of Today would be hard put to do the projects that were able to do now. We are now once again in good standing with the Secretary of State and are able to request gaming funds to help us continue to work for the community.

Upcoming events for us include a family bowling night, the Easter egg hunt, a silly supper and a chapter fun night for members. We are looking forward to all of these events. Come and join us. We would welcome your company.

We want to wish you all a fun St. Patrick's Day and a meaningful Easter. Hoping to see you all in Duluth in June.

Pat Fern, NDWT president



Greetings from Pennsylvania



I don't know about you, I'm ready for spring. It has been really cold and windy here in Pennsylvania. January and February are normally slower months with the uncertain weather. Just like the changes in the seasons, our chapters are coming out of their dormant winter cycle and beginning to bloom. Everyone is back in the swing as they are preparing for upcoming spring projects and events.

Our next State meeting is being hosted by our Dover chapter on April 26th. This trimester we will be collecting food and personal care items for the Catholic Harvest Food Pantry of York.

We ended the second trimester with 100% retention plus 4 new members. Year to date, we are at 100% retention PLUS 10 new members!!

Our Dover chapter continues to provide monthly bingo at a local nursing home. Their Winter's Blues chapter social had to be postponed due to a snowstorm. They are holding a pound sale at their February meeting, sponsoring a bus trip to Flight 93 memorial, hosting our state meeting, as well as goodie baskets to the area teachers and poll workers.

The Lititz chapter members were busy over the holidays but will not be meeting again until April. They are currently working on their annual scholarship nominations.

The Northeastern chapter continues to provide a monthly baked goods and craft day for a local assistance living center. For Valentine's Day, they handed out special treats and cards to all the residents. They held their annual girl's getaway weekend, where they worked on bookmarks for the local free library. Upcoming projects include fruit baskets for local shut-ins, goodie baskets for poll workers as well as local fire and police departments.

The Womelsdorf chapter held their annual Murder Mystery dinner. They are working hard on several upcoming projects that include men's appreciation dinner, a community egg hunt, an adult in the dark egg hunt, bingo, sandwich sales and will be providing a free community meal at a local church.